

## THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1893.

## HAWAII.

After reading the report of Minister Blount, we feel as if we might with good reason say: "A plague on both your houses." Mr. Blount is a man in whom everybody places confidence who knows him. His word is his bond, and his oath is his guarantee. He is incapable of misrepresenting any matter whatever. No other man in the House of Representatives during his service in that body has been so much respected. There was no other whose utterances on such subjects as came properly before him for comment or for action were so generally recognized as entitled to be accepted as reliable authority. This excellent gentleman was Mr. Cleveland's Minister to Hawaii, and it was his report that of the public of the United States and of the great Powers of Europe read yesterday.

But the public will, if they read between the lines of Mr. Blount's report, learn that that gentleman has to deal with such a problem as no other country presents to the world for consideration. The United States Government cannot restore even the status quo in the Hawaiian Islands, and the matter was changed when our government recognized the Provisional Government at Honolulu. The mere attempt to restore the status quo would be equivalent to putting down the Provisional Government, and, of course, of erecting upon its ruins the successor of the government which we so lately frowned upon, to say the least.

But, as we have unbounded confidence in Mr. Blount, so we have in President Cleveland. We have read Mr. Blount's report carefully, but see nothing in it to cause us to change any opinion which we have heretofore expressed on the Hawaiian question. Nevertheless, we await further developments. "Our motto of every patriot must be: 'Our country, in her peril, be it right or wrong, we will support her.' We have little respect for the people of Hawaii, and are perhaps disposed to incline our ear too readily to the suggestion that they have no rights which any great power is bound to respect. But, we repeat, we have unlimited confidence in the President. He is a national mascot, and will, if anybody can, bring us good luck and good fortune.

## Governor O'Ferrall's Inauguration.

The Washington Post, which, by the way, is a capital newspaper, remarkable for strong, common-sense, hits the nail on the head in the following article: "It is the opinion of the Richmond Dispatch that Governor O'Ferrall should be inaugurated at the same time as the military and the Richmond State approves the suggestion of its contemporary. The State has also ascertained that the simple inauguration, is nevertheless inclined to think that the ceremonies should be of a character befitting the dignity of the occasion, and is willing to let his fellow-citizens honor him as they may see fit."

This is the sensible view to take of the matter. There is always more or less hypocritical pretense in the talk about Jeffersonian simplicity in such conditions, and we are naturally disposed to question the good faith or sincerity of the man who, being elected to a high office, takes special pains to let the people know that he wants no public demonstration over his installation.

It is true there is a good deal of "talk" and "feather" in the business, but it is distasteful in a sense to any modest and unpretentious man; at the same time, if the people like it and find that a man of consequence, and of confidence in the man of their choice, or their respect for his official position, or their relation to him, or their respect for the man who, being elected to a high office, takes special pains to let the people know that he wants no public demonstration over his installation.

"Colonel O'Ferrall is right. He may not altogether fancy the arrangements that are contemplated for his inauguration, but it is not for him to say what they shall be. He owes it as a matter of courtesy to the people who have chosen him the Chief Magistrate of a great Commonwealth that they be permitted to induce him into office with such ceremonies and as though he should be the most appropriate."

We hear often of "exhausting" a subject, but we do not often meet with such an illustration of what the word "exhausting" means in such a connection. Not another word can be profitably said on the subject.

## Legalized Primaries.

The State is correct in quoting the Dispatch as being in favor of legalized primaries; that is, wherever the people call for them.

We wish to have a legalized primary here in Richmond, and have so said often. It should be as much a crime to commit fraud at a primary election as at a regular election.

In our judgment the General Assembly would, however, do well to leave many of the details of the primary-election plans to the party committees. In Richmond it is not our custom to allow any but "white Democrats" to vote at our Democratic primary elections. Can the General Assembly of Virginia make any such distinction in its laws that it passes? We should like to see the Australian ballot system tried here at a primary, but we should dislike to be compelled to continue to use it whether it suited our purposes or not. In such matters of detail such discretion should be given party committees.

The main thing is to get a law to prevent fraud. That is what we are aiming at. That is what the Democratic Committee of Richmond is asking for.

The Case of Judge Buford. The Dispatch has received a letter from Lawrence Jones expostulating with it for claiming, as it did in a recent issue, that Judge P. E. Buford was not a member of the "opposition" in the next House of Delegates. Our correspondent says that though the Judge ran as an "Independent" he everywhere professed himself a Democrat.

We believe that the Judge has never voted other than a Democratic ticket, and we have faith that he will keep all the promises he made when he was elected to the late election, but it will remain for the Democratic caucus to say whether he shall be admitted to it or not.

We do not desire to prejudice the case. It will be one of the very first matters to be disposed of by the House caucus after organizing, if, as we believe to be his purpose, the Judge claims the right to be present and participate. And then, of course, it will be incumbent upon him to show his title to membership.

Judges and Their Pay. It is understood that in his forthcoming message Governor McKinney will urge the General Assembly to increase the salaries of Circuit and Supreme Court judges.

We believe that Virginia is now in condition to warrant her paying these officers salaries more nearly commensurate than present salaries with the value of their services; but we should prefer to have the matter of the revision of the criminal laws and administration of justice considered as a whole. To this end it would be well to set the proper committees of the two houses to work in the right direction at the beginning of the session. The people would be very much disappointed indeed if the General Assembly were to meet and adjourn this winter without doing anything in this direction more than to increase the salaries of judges. If, however, along with increased pay for judges there were an administrative reorganization of the criminal justice in Virginia, and economizing its cost, there would be general public approval.

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